

Sierra, Natalie

From: Maile Lono [maile.lono@nwbiosolids.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2010 10:13 AM
To: Newsom, Gavin; Moala, Tommy T; Harrington, Ed; Sierra, Natalie
Subject: NW Biosolids support letter for SF PUC Compost
Attachments: NBMASupportLtrSanFrancisco.pdf

Hello,

Please find the attached letter of support from the Northwest Biosolids Management Association (NBMA) Board of Directors, for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commissions biosolids compost giveaway program. Please feel free to contact us if we can provide any further support.

Sincerely,

Maile Lono-Batura, Manager

Northwest Biosolids Management Association

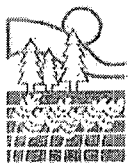
Website: <http://www.nwbiosolids.org>

Mission: Advancing environmental sustainability through the beneficial use of biosolids

201 S. Jackson St., KSC-NR-0512 Seattle, WA 98104-3855 P: (206) 684-1145

6/25/2010

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NORTHWEST BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

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March 10, 2010

Mayor Gavin Newsom
City Hall – Room 200
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Support for biosolids composting program and compost give-away

Dear Mayor Newsom:

On behalf of the Northwest Biosolids Management Association (NBMA), we are writing to express our support for the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's biosolids management program, which includes composting and a public compost give-away program. At our January 14, 2010 meeting, the Board of Directors agreed to send in this letter of support.

NBMA, incorporated in 1993, is a non-profit professional membership association working to advance environmental sustainability through the beneficial use of biosolids. Our membership spans Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. There is an estimated 226,165 dry tons of biosolids produced in this region of which 88% is beneficially reused to agriculture, forestry, land reclamation and landscaping. While each of our states, regions and countries is unique; we've learned that a single decision can inherently affect biosolids programs everywhere.

San Francisco has an exemplary record as an environmental leader. Work in San Francisco to ban food and yard waste from landfills is one example of this. Using these materials to produce green energy through anaerobic digestion and a valuable soil amendment through composting illustrates how San Francisco has turned a 'waste' into a resource. Members of the NBMA firmly believe that composting biosolids offers the same environmental benefits as landfill diversion of food and yard waste, reducing the fossil fuel costs associated with hauling and your carbon footprint by sequestering carbon in urban soils - we salute your efforts to this end.

We have been following the developments surrounding the recent opposition to the City of San Francisco's compost giveaway program by the Center for Food Safety (CFS) in conjunction with the Resource Institute for Low Entropy Systems (RILES). These two organizations also championed the 2003 petition to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to place a blanket moratorium on the use of biosolids on land. A response letter was issued by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, Regional Biosolids Associations and others, outlining the reasons this petition should be denied.

The EPA rejected the moratorium petition, addressing each of the charges CFS and RILES highlighted.

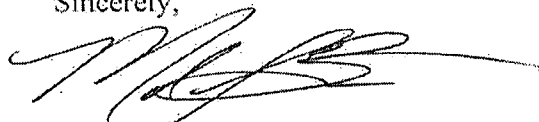
Municipal biosolids are highly regulated, thoroughly researched, beneficial soil amendments. Science has repeatedly shown the value of biosolids amendments to soil health. NBMA supported research has demonstrated that biosolids can restore metal contaminated soils, improve soil physical properties, support vigorous plant growth, and provide an effective means to increase soil carbon reserves.

While the NBMA credits research as a key to understanding biosolids recycling, we are also cognizant of the fact that public perception holds as much weight in determining the landscape for beneficial reuse programs. In our region, public outreach and education go hand in hand with sponsored research to maximize beneficial use of these materials. Because of this dedication to research and outreach, the City of Tacoma's TAGRO program is being utilized throughout the City in local community and home gardens. Compost give-away or sales programs are an important public outreach tool, promoting biosolids reuse, helping connect the public to the work being done by San Francisco wastewater professionals and prompting a public discussion of the waste products being discharged by the public to the wastewater collection system. We would like to encourage you to continue in your efforts to establish local markets for your biosolids products and are happy to offer any assistance that you might require.

We would like to applaud the City of San Francisco for serving as a prime example of exemplary biosolids management by staying responsive to community concerns, continually evaluating the quality of their program and product and standing instead of folding to these allegations.

Please feel free to contact me if any further support is needed.

Sincerely,



Maile Lono-Batura, NBMA Manager

on behalf of the NBMA Board of Directors

Duane Leaf, NBMA President, Three Rivers Regional Wastewater Authority, WA
 Tim Cooper, NBMA Vice-President, City of Yakima, WA
 Chris Chesson, NBMA Secretary, City of Everett, WA
 Roy Carlson, NBMA Treasurer, City of Richland, WA
 Dale Arnold, City of Spokane, WA
 Chantal Babensee, Metro Vancouver, BC
 Gil Bridges, Mukilteo Water & Wastewater District
 Greg Charr, City of Portland, OR
 Chuck Edwards, City of Wilsonville, OR
 Roberta King, King County, WA

Peggy Leonard, King County, WA
Rob Lowe, Pierce County, WA
Greg Moen, HDR Engineering, Inc.
Bill Putnam, City of College Place, WA
Carol Ready, Natural Selection Farms, WA
Dan Thompson, City of Tacoma, WA
Ken Vanderford, City of Eugene, OR
Mike Van Ham, SYLVIS Environmental
Steve Wilson, Brown & Caldwell
Kirk Zempel, City of Tacoma, WA

cc: Ed Harrington, SFPUC General Manager
Tommy T. Moala, SFPUC Wastewater Enterprise Assistant General Manager
Natalie Sierra, SFPUC Process Engineer
Greg Kester, California Association of Sanitation Agencies